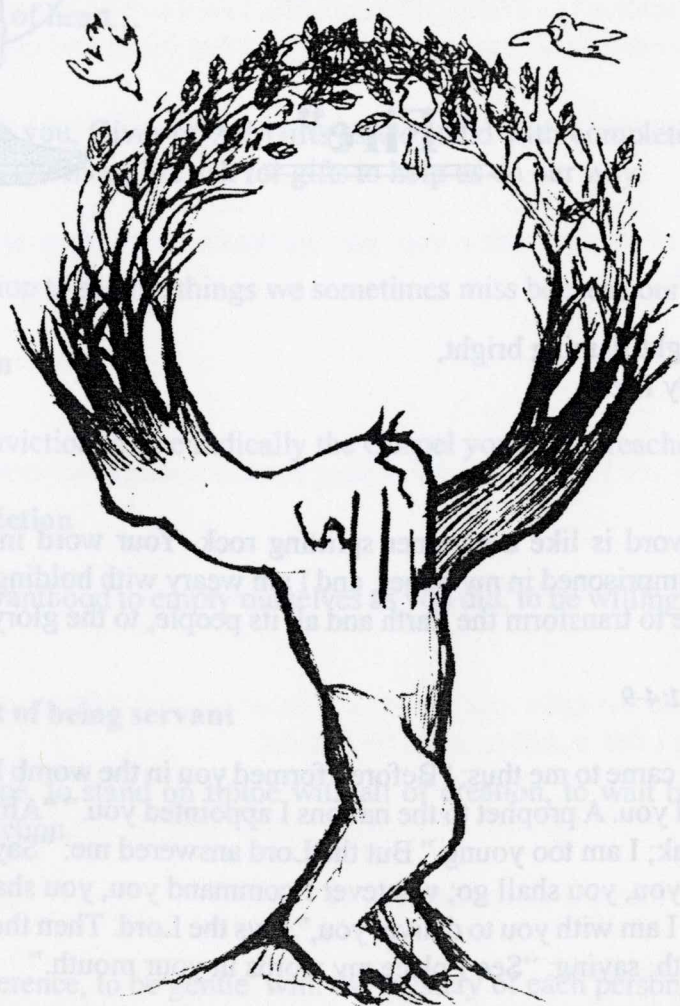


NCCC '95



*National Catholic  
Chaplains Conference  
1995*

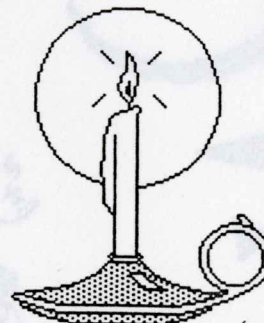
# National Catholic Chaplains Conference

Concordia University, Montréal, Québec

*Loyola Chapel*

*Saturday, May 28th, 1995*

## "Fire"



**SONG:** *The Light of Christ*

The light of Christ, light flaming bright,  
Burn in my heart, holy fire.

**ALL:** *Prayer*

God of glory, your word is like a hammer splitting rock. Your word in me is a burning fire, burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in. Let it burst from me like fire and flame to transform the Earth and all its people, to the glory of your name. Amen.

 **FIRST READING:** *Jeremiah 1:4-9*

The word of the Lord came to me thus: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you. A prophet to the nations I appointed you." "Ah, Lord God!", I said, "I know not how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord answered me: "Say not 'I am too young.' To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord. Then the Lord extended a hand and touched my mouth, saying: "See I place my words in your mouth."

**RESPONSE:** ... from the Gospels (*Alternate sides*)

"I baptize you with water," said John, "but the one who comes will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." (Lk 3:16)

"The spirit of the Lord our God has anointed me to share the good news with the poor, to bind and bring together all broken and lonely lives, those who await new hope."

"I have come to cast fire onto the Earth; how I wish it were already kindled!" (Lk 12:49)

**READER 1:** In union with the suffering humankind, our sisters and brothers in our troubled world...



**READER 2:** In union with our religious and pastoral leaders that they may lead with wisdom and courage...

**READER 3:** In union with women, youth, the materially poor, the marginalized who seek justice and human rights...

**READER 4:** In union with our respective university communities, families and friends who seek peace and wholeness of heart...

**ALL:** We pray to you, Giver-of-All-Gifts as we stand with complete confidence bearing your promise in our lives. We ask for gifts to help us on our way:

*(Alternate sides)*

For the gift of vision to see the things we sometimes miss because our earth-eyes are so limited.

**ALL: Give us your vision**

For the gift of conviction to live radically the Gospel you have preached to us.

**ALL: Give us your conviction**

For the gift of servanthood to empty ourselves as you did, to be willing to bend low, to wash feet, to heal wounds.

**ALL: Give us your spirit of being servant**

For the gift of hope, to stand on tiptoe with all of creation, to wait believingly for rebirth, for growth, for completion.

**ALL: Give us your hope**

For the gift of reverence, to be gentle with the mystery of each person's uniqueness, to stand on holy ground.

**ALL: Give us your reverence**

For the gift of counsel, to be able to listen and to understand the yearnings and struggles of others.

**ALL: Give us your counsel**

Finally, we pray for the grace to recognize your gifts when they are given, to own them, claim them, to acknowledge them as ours to give away.

**ALL: Give us your own power of recognition**

## ✠ REFLECTION:

The prophets and all the saints of God were on fire with the love of God, burned with concern for the things of God: for the words and the ways and the things of God. You and I, are we on fire? Do we burn with compassion, with zeal for justice? Perhaps we burn with anger, with rage at the cruelty and violence in our world, especially against children and defenseless persons. Perhaps ours is a more personal fire – a burning resentment over an injury done to us, or a searing disappointment, or a deep sorrow kindled by the death of a loved one or a broken relationship. Reach deep within your silent source to touch that part of you that burns and call it by its name.

You and I are we on fire today? Do we burn with compassion, with zeal for justice, with prophetic hope and vision?

When you have named the fire within you, you are welcome to come up and light your candle from the Pascal candle.

## PRAYER:

### ALL:

We give you thanks, Holy Fire, Spirit of Wisdom, for you speak to us in ways that often surprise us.

You uncover truths that we had kept hidden from ourselves and support us in tasks we fear to undertake alone.

We give thanks for your invitations to growth and intimacy and fullness of life, and for the comfort you extend in our often uphill struggle be faithful.

Inspire us. Encourage us. Fill us with enthusiasm for the mission of your church.

“Transforming the womb of God, conceive in us.

We ask you to create life anew;  
Faith the confidence to bear,  
Hope, continuously expectant,  
Love, the true beginning.”

Amen.

ENKINDLE  
OUR  
HEARTS  
WITH YOUR  
LOVE, LORD.

